



## Media Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Gov. Beebe to speak at AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony**

The Arkansas Service Commission will host the fourteenth annual AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock.

More than 400 AmeriCorps members, Senior Corps members, and representatives of nonprofits and volunteer groups are expected to attend. The Parkview High School Navy JROTC will present the colors and the Little Rock Christian Academy Choir will provide national music.

The principal speaker will be the Honorable Governor Mike Beebe of the State of Arkansas. This Opening Ceremony will highlight service by AmeriCorps members during their response to tornadoes, floods and other storms that have battered Arkansas in 2008. Invited guests include Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps\*State, VISTA and Senior Corps project members.

The J. C. Babbs Award for Outstanding Achievement will be presented to former AmeriCorps member Kim Burnett for her continued professional development and service as a teacher. The Ceremony will conclude with the swearing in of the AmeriCorps members who will serve in projects throughout Arkansas during the 2008-2009 term.

This year there are 11 AmeriCorps\*State programs in Arkansas bringing a total of \$2,608,158 in federal funds and 479 AmeriCorps member positions into the state. Among other activities, members provide adult and child literacy tutoring, in-school translation services for Spanish-speaking families, help to the homeless and foster children and environmental improvement and education.

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AmeriCorps ceremony –2-2-2-2-2

The Arkansas Service Commission is housed in the Department of Human Services Division of Volunteerism. The Commission serves as the conduit for federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Services to AmeriCorps programs in Arkansas.